

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compaction station comprising:
  - a platform sized and configured to receive refuse;
  - a hydraulic ram configured to move refuse into a compaction chamber and compress the refuse inside the compaction chamber;
  - a boiler configured to create steam and in communication with at least one steam port, the at least one steam port being configured to inject steam into the refuse;
  - a steam extractor configured to remove steam from within the compaction chamber, the steam extractor being in communication with the compaction chamber; and
  - a steam condenser in communication with the steam extractor, the steam condenser being configured to condense the steam into water and supply the water to the boiler.
2. The compaction station of Claim 1, wherein the platform is rotatable.
3. The compaction station of Claim 1 further comprising a scanner configured to scan the refuse treated by the compaction station.
4. A compaction station comprising:
  - a compaction chamber, the compaction chamber being configured to receive steam;
  - a steam extractor configured to remove steam from the compaction chamber; and
  - a press configured to compress refuse in the compaction chamber.
5. The compaction station of Claim 4 further comprising a platform for holding the refuse.
6. The compaction station of Claim 5, wherein the platform comprises an opening, and the platform is configured to rotate such that the refuse placed on the platform will engage a wiper that holds the refuse until the opening in the platform slides underneath the refuse, permitting the refuse to fall into a holding bin.
7. The compaction station of Claim 4 further comprising a scanner that is configured to scan the refuse treated by the compaction station.

8. A method of pre-treating refuse before placement of the refuse in a landfill, the method comprising the steps of:

depositing refuse on a platform of a compaction station and transferring the refuse from the platform to a compaction chamber;

sealing the compaction chamber and injecting steam into the refuse of a temperature and a pressure sufficient to melt plastics in the refuse and vaporize liquids;

extracting the steam from the compaction chamber and compressing the refuse inside the compaction chamber, creating a refuse block;

cooling the refuse block with water to solidify the refuse block and transferring the refuse block from the compaction chamber to a landfill.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of scanning the refuse before the refuse is transferred into the compaction chamber.

10. A method of treating refuse, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a compaction station for treating the refuse;

injecting high temperature steam into refuse in a compaction chamber of the compaction station;

extracting the steam and compression the refuse into a refuse block.

11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of transferring the refuse block to a landfill.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the refuse block is transferred by truck.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the refuse block is transferred by rail.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein the refuse block is transferred by barge.

15. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of cooling the refuse block following compaction.

16. The method of Claim 10, wherein the refuse block is compressed by a hydraulic ram.

17. The method of Claim 10, wherein the refuse is treated by the compaction station at a transfer station.

18. The method of Claim 10, wherein the refuse is treated by the compaction station at a landfill.